

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be re-examined.

The June 10, 2010, Office Action ("Office Action") rejected all of the claims of this application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on AU38285/93. AU38285/93, AU12348/95, and AU28450/95 are related. As a result, for ease of reference, they will be referred to herein as the APV patents. The APV patents relate to a previous version of the steam generation chamber of the present application and are discussed in the background of the invention portion of the present application (page 2, line 9, et seq.).

The present invention is an improvement over the disclosures in the APV patents. The steam generation chamber of the present invention has a cover running from the region where water is directed onto the heat sink to the other end of the chamber where steam is released to the oven compartment. This feature of the present invention has two primary advantages: (1) the heating element is not exposed to debris such as product overflow falling from the rotating turntables, this debris then baking onto the heating elements/heat sink and requiring regular cleaning of the steam generation chamber; and (2) unevaporated water, which affects the quality of the baked goods, is less likely to be released from the steam generation chamber since to do so it must first travel the distance of the chamber to reach the steam outlet.

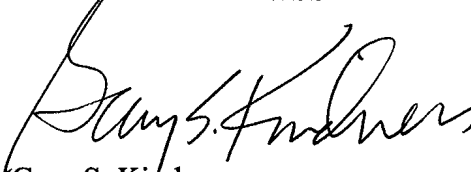
Contrarily, the steam generation chamber of the APV patents contains no such covering. Instead, the APV patents describe only a "diffuser plate 37," which is used to "prevent the water from being reflected upwardly onto the product being baked" and which does not continue along the length of the heating element/ballast bar. This is evident from, for instance, Figure 3. Therefore, the problems associated with debris falling onto the heating elements and ballast bars exist with the steam generation chamber design of the APV patents (as discussed at page 2, line 13, et seq., of the present application).

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Applicant respectfully submits that the APV patents do not disclose each of the essential features of the present invention. The claims have been amended where appropriate with regard to these features. Applicant requests that the objection to the novelty of the present invention be withdrawn. Since the APV patents provide no indication that debris falling onto the heating elements/ballast bars is a problem, as such it would not be obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the present invention in view of the APV patents. Thus, applicant submits that the present invention is also inventive over the APV patents and requests that all of the claims in this application be allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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